

REMARKS

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Office Action mailed on January 29, 2007, which has been reviewed and carefully considered. Reconsideration and allowance of the present application in view of the amendments made above and the remarks to follow are respectfully requested.

By means of the present amendment, the current Abstract has been deleted and substituted with the enclosed New Abstract which better conforms to U.S. practice.

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to claims 4-6 for certain informalities. In response, claims 4-6 have been amended to remove the informalities noted by the Examiner. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to claims 4-6 is respectfully requested. Further, claims 1-11 have been amended for better conformance to U.S. practice, such as beginning the dependent claims with 'The' instead of 'A.' Claims 1-11 were not amended in order to address issues of patentability and Applicant respectfully reserves all rights under the Doctrine of Equivalents.

In the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 2-3,

5-6 and 11 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. In addition, claims 1, 4, 7 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,437,515 (Kamoi). Further, claims 8-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Kamoi.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the indication that 2-3, 5-6 and 11 contain allowable subject matter. However, Applicant has not rewritten these claims in independent form, since it is believed that independent claims 1 and 11, as well as claims 4, 7-10 and 12 should be allowable over Kamoi for at least the following reasons.

Kamoi is directed to a discharge lamp lighting device of high startability with high pulse voltage. Column 5, lines 5-17 of Kamoi are cited on page 3 of the Office Action to allegedly show a control circuit the controls the frequency of the alternating current, provided by a second sub-circuit, subject to a varying component of the mains voltage.

It is respectfully submitted that the noted section of Kamoi merely describes a control circuit 5A (FIG 2) that alternately and unbalanceingly controls switch ON/OFF to provide different ON and

OFF periods, or different duty cycles. The control circuit 5A changes the frequency of the switching elements in at least one of the first and second periods to apply a high voltage to the discharge lamp.

It is respectfully submitted that Kamoi is completely silent, and does not teach or suggest the present invention as recited in independent claim 1, and similarly recited in independent claim 10 which, amongst other patentable elements, requires (illustrative emphasis provided) :

a control circuit which is connected to the first and the second sub-circuit and which controls the frequency of the alternating current [provided by a second sub-circuit] subject to a varying component of the mains voltage rectified by the first sub-circuit.

A control circuit that controls the frequency of the alternating current, provided by a second sub-circuit, subject to a varying component of the mains voltage, is nowhere taught or suggested in Kamoi.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1 and 10 should be allowable, and allowance thereof is respectfully requested. In addition, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2-9 and 11-12 should also be allowed at least based on

its dependence from independent claims 1 and 10.

In addition, Applicant denies any statement, position or averment of the Examiner that is not specifically addressed by the foregoing argument and response. Any rejections and/or points of argument not addressed would appear to be moot in view of the presented remarks. However, the Applicant reserves the right to submit further arguments in support of the above stated position, should that become necessary. No arguments are waived and none of the Examiner's statements are conceded.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosure: New Abstract

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